



Coconino County Sheriff's Office

Bill Pribil, Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
Date: January 22, 2010**

Contact: Gerry Blair (928) 226-5089

Back Country Advisory

Flagstaff, AZ- As a result of the severe winter storms that have pelted the Northern Arizona back country with as much as 5 feet of snow, the Kachina Peaks Wilderness Area is closed to ALL entry. Other forested areas, backcountry and dirt roads are snow packed and impassable—without exception. People traveling in these forested or unimproved areas place themselves at an unacceptable risk.

Coconino County Sheriff's Deputies and Coconino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue members are dedicated to saving lives. When initiating a rescue mission, consideration will be given to the specific mission and associated hazards to rescuers. Rescuers will not be sent into a situation when the hazards posed cause grave concern for their personal safety. The Coconino County Search and Rescue Unit will respond to all rescue missions, however, the degree of danger posed to the rescuers will dictate the degree of the response.

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